

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: OPTION III: EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS: SPC MEETING
NOVEMBER 10

REFS: A) USNATO 5791 DTG 241050Z OCT 75;

B) USNATO 5618 DTG 161034Z OCT 75

1. AT SPC MEETING NOVEMBER 10, BELGIAN REP (BURNY) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WERE VERY INTERESTED IN THE NEW UK APPROACH TO EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, WITHOUT TAKING A FIXED, DEFINITIVE POSITION ON IT. THEY WERE SENSITIVE TO THE UK ARGUMENT THAT THE AHG SHOULD HAVE TACTICAL FLEXIBILITY.

2. ITALIAN REP (CIARRAPICO) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD A VERY DIFFERENT REACTION TO THE UK APPROACH. ON INSTRUCTIONS, HE STATED THAT ITALY STILL PREFERS THE CONCEPTUAL SCHEME, IN THE PRESENT PARAS 4-10 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE, WHEREBY A
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DISCUSSION OF EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS REMAINS SUBORDINATE TO AN EXPLORATION OF PRINCIPLES OF REDUCTIONS. THE OPTION III REDUCTIONS PROPOSAL IS ALREADY AN IMPORTANT STEP, AND THE ALLIES HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPECT AN EASTERN RESPONSE INDICATING

SERIOUS INTEREST BEFORE THE ALLIES GO INTO THEIR POSITION ON US/SOVIET EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. RE THE ALLIED POSITION THAT THERE WILL BE NO LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT, ITALY CONTINUES TO PREFER SOMETHING LIKE THE COMPROMISE VERSION OF PARA 5 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE, BUT WITH THE FRG PHRASE IN PARA 10 ENABLING THE AHG, AFTER THE POINTS IN PARA 5 HAVE BEEN MADE, TO RESPOND TO EASTERN PRESSURE BY SAYING THAT THERE WILL BE NO LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT. HE SAID ON A PERSONAL BASIS, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO FRG TEXT INTRODUCED AT THE LAST MEETING, THAT THIS "PROLIFERATION OF TEXTS" WOULD NOT HELP THE SPC REACH A CONCLUSION. (COMMENT: HOWEVER, FRG REP (HOYNCK) REMAINED SILENT IN THE DISCUSSION OF THIS POINT, AND DID NOT WITHDRAW THE FRG TEXT.)

3. US REP (MOORE) MADE A COMPREHENSIVE STATEMENT OF THE US VIEW THE TACTICS OF THE ALLIED POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, BASED ON PREVIOUS GUIDANCE, AND HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE US COMPROMISE PROPOSAL FOR PARA 5, RE NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT, SHOULD MEET THE CONCERN OF THE OTHER ALLIES, WITHOUT THE FRG PHRASE IN PARA 10. ITALIAN REP APPEARED TO INDICATE SOME FLEXIBILITY ON THE LATTER PINT, AS LONG AS THE AHG COULD AFTER AND INSTRUCTED EASTERN RESPONSE REPLY NEGATIVELY TO EASTERN QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT WOULD BE LIMITED, AND US REP POINTED OUT THAT THE AHG COULD DO SO.

4. UK REP (BAILES) SAID THAT LONDON COULD UNDERSTAND THE US POSITION THAT LIMITATION OF US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS IN MBFR WAS ACCEPTABLE ONLY AS A RESULT OF A REDUCTIONS AGREEMENT, AND THAT THE US DID NOT WANT TO SUGGEST TO THE EAST THAT ARMAMENT LIMITATIONS, IN ISOLATION FROM SUCH AN AGREEMENT, COULD BE AN ACCEPTABLE ELEMENT IN MBFR. HOWEVER, LONDON COULD NOT SEE HOW THIS POSITION WOULD BE PREJUDICED BY INFORMING THE OTHER SIDE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE OPTION III REDUCTIONS OFFER, OF THE LIMITATIONS WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THIS OFFER. UK WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT IF THE ALLIES DID NOT INFORM THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR POSITION ON EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS, THE OTHER SIDE COULD CLAIM ALLIED BAD FAITH.

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5. ITALIAN REP REPLIED THAT THE OPTION III REDUCTIONS OFFER WAS IMPORATANT, AND THAT IT WAS REASONABLE FOR THE OTHER SIDE TO RESPOND TO IT BEFORE THE ALLIES GO INTO THE DETAILS OF EQUIPMENT LIMITATIONS. US REP AGREED WITH ITALIAN REP AND SAID THAT THE OTHER SIDE COULD NOT LEGITIMATELY CLAIM THAT IT WAS BAD FAITH FOR THE ALLIES TO EXPECT AN EXPLORATION OF PRINCIPLES OF THE REDUCTIONS OFFER BEFOE GETTING INTO EQUIPMENT LIMITATION ISSUES.

6. COMMENT: THE CURRENT VERSION OF PARA 5 OF THE DRAFT GUIDANCE IS CONTAINED IN PARA 3, REF A. THE CURRENT VERSION OF PARA 4, AND PARAS 6 TO 10 ARE AS CONTAINED IN REF B, EXCEPT FOR DELETION OF THE FOOTNOTE TO PARA 4. IT MIGHT HELP THE ITALIAN REP

TO STATE SPECIFICALLY IN THE GUIDANCE THAT THE AHG WOULD NOT HAVE TO DELAY A NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO EASTERN REQUESTS FOR LIMITATIONS ON NON-US ALLIED EQUIPMENT, ONCE THE DISCUSSION ON ARMAMENTS LIMITATIONS HAD BEGUN. THIS COULD BE MADE SPECIFIC IN THE GUIDANCE BY MODIFYING THE FIRST BRACKETED (FRG) PHRASE IN PARA 10 SO THAT IT REFERRED TO PARA 6 OF THE GUIDANCE INSTEAD OF PARA 5. THUS THE US WOULD ACCEPT THE FRG PHRASE, ONLY CHANGING THE PARAGRAPH REFERENCE, SO THAT PARA 10 WOULD BEGIN: "IF A T ANY POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER THE POINTS IN PARA 6 ABOVE HAVE BEEN MADE...".

7. ACTION REQUESTED: IN TIME FOR SPC MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13: A) GUIDANCE ON THE CHANGE SUGGESTED IN THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH; B) GUIDANCE ON THE VARIOUS DRAFTING CHANGES CONTAINED IN THE COMPROMISE VERSION OF PARA 5, IN LIGHT OF COMMENT IN PARA 12, REF ASTREATOR

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